THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) Razia Sultan's Tomb is an ASI protected monument and is in good state of preservation and conservation. The three havelis are not protected and they are in private occupation and ownership. There is no proposal to bring them under central protection.

National Archives of India

2341. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a review panel constituted by the National Archives of India has suggested changes in the Public Records Act, 1993 towards empowering the common man and research scholars to gain access to papers/records that should be in the public domain;

(b) whether the panel has suggested that all ministries apprise and release papers to the National Archives in a 20-25 year time frame;

(c) whether Governments around the world have mechanisms in place to declassify documents and records, on expiry of the lock-in period without imperiling national interest or security; and

(d) if so, Government's comments thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) A Review Panel has been constituted on 18.2.2009, to study the provisions of Public Records Act, 1993 and Public Records Rules, 1997 and the matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The Report of the Panel is awaited.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Qutab Minar

2342. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that national monument Qutab Minar is facing a grave danger;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to protect this national monument?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Survey of India has conducted geodetic survey of Qutub Minar in the year 2005 at the behest of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to study its verticality. In its report submitted to ASI last year, the Survey of India has concluded that there was no tilt. However, as advised by it to collect high frequency data, ASI has assigned the task of conducting geodetic survey of the Qutub Minar, every year, to the Survey of India.

ASI is taking all measures to ensure that no damage is caused to the structure.